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Address of Honorable

James Caldwell Jenkins,

Judge of the Court of First Instance of the Third
Judicial

District of the Philippine Islands

Delivered at Lingayen, P. I., on the occasion of the
Celebration of the Centennial of the Birth of

Abraham Lincoln

February 12, 1909



At the conclusion of this address, the Toastmaster, Señor Joaquin Balmori, arose and stated that in his opinion copies of the same should be furnished the students of the Province of Pangasinan; and moved the Executive Committee to take steps to have the speech published. The motion was carried by acclamation. Judge Jenkins was heartily congratulated on the able and exhaustive manner in which the subject had been handled; and at its conclusion there was an outburst of applause.

"One of the Few
The Immortal Names Not Born to Die."

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

In reviewing the great events of the World's history which challenge admiration and enlist sympathy, the mind involuntarily associates with those events the master spirits that were contemporaneous with them. The mere mention of great historical epochs at once awakens the remembrance of great men. This is true of all those startling acts in the drama of human affairs which the mind delights to contemplate. The Reformation, that grand uprising of the European nations about the Sixteenth Century, instantly reminds us of a Luther, a Calvin, and their distinguished coadjutors, in whom were embodied its ideas and principles.

With the eventful struggle that resulted in the establishment of the institutions which we now enjoy, we are accustomed to couple the name of the Great Washington.

With the sanguinary conflict waged for the amelioration of four million human beings and the *perpetuity* of those institutions must be ever associated and linked in memory the name of the immortal Lincoln.

The establishment of the American Republic near the close of the Eighteenth Century immortalized the "Father of His Country," and has made his name the synonym for Anglo-Republicanism throughout the world.

The *preservation* of the Republic, after one of the most momentous and bloody struggles in the annals of mankind, has thrown a Halo of Glory around the name of Lincoln, and made him known in the remotest corner of the globe as the friend of the downtrodden, the Emancipator of a Race,—the savior of his country.

Great as was the cause for which our forefathers fought, and unexampled as their trials and sufferings at that time undoubtedly were, they sink into comparative insignificance in the light of events embraced between the 12th of April, 1861, and the 14th of the same month of the year 1865.

During this eventful and perilous period difficulties were encountered which would have utterly overwhelmed a will less patient and self-poised than that of Abraham Lincoln; but in times of his severest trials and embarrassments Mr. Lincoln listened to the grievances and redressed the wrongs that afflicted the humblest citizen. Amid the clash of armed strife and din of party struggle he never turned a deaf ear nor refused a cheerful word to the unfortunate. In the darkest hours of adversity his sympathies were ever with the weak, the lowly and oppressed; that "justice should be tempered with mercy" was with him never a mere theory; for, while endowed with a high sense of justice, in his great soul he too keenly felt that it was human to err and Divine to forgive.

For four long years, during which not a day passed in which the organs of the opposition did not ferociously assail him, not a single word of vindictiveness was heard to fall from his lips. Criticized by both political friend and foe, slandered and maligned by radicals of every sort and all extremes, he remained immovable like a rock for the Right.

In the hour of defeat, as well as in the hour of victory, he maintained equal serenity of temper and pursued the "even tenor of his way;" while others faltered he was undaunted; while others trimmed he was steadfast, with ever an unshaken confidence in the wisdom of his policy and ultimate triumph of the great cause which he had so zealously and courageously espoused.

Unintimidated by menace and unseduced by flattery, he held on his way like the stars, "unhasting but unresting." Persevering in the great task before him, "still achieving, still pursuing," he persistently labored and patiently waited, until at last, when the wisdom of his course had been fully demonstrated, and success had crowned his efforts, he reached that topmost arch of fame which shall stand when Governments and nations fall.

The contrast between the Commencement and the Close of Lincoln's administration is one of the wonders of history.

It began with one-half of the Country ablaze with the flame of rebellion, the other half transfixed with perplexity and the sense of coming disaster. It began with, not only division of geographical sections, but of different races and institutions; and it was a question whether the Nation existed as a fact or as a mere fancy; whether the interests of a single commonwealth should be made paramount to the interests of the republic.

The Nation's right to live had been challenged and the challenge accepted. The critical time for the supreme test had dawned. Sumter was fired upon, and Beauregard and his cohorts were in battle array. Armed resistance on the one part had to be met by the land and naval forces on the other. A war of opinion, a war of words, and a war of ballots for half a century had failed of adjustment; and arbitrament of the sword had become inevitable. The Nation's peril was at hand. "The Brother's War" begun.

And, waiving all consideration of the question as to which side was in the wrong; or whether either was entirely right or wholly wrong; it suffices to say that the country was plunged into the most horrible civil war recorded in the history of the World.

Amidst the throes and convulsions of that awful conflict which resulted in the settlement of all the previous unhappy differences and dissensions, Abraham Lincoln never faltered nor gave up any material interest of his important trust. He rose with each emergency, firmly grasped every question, and calmly looked to the ultimate result. United with his noble corps of advisers he martialed and organized an army that astonished the World; created a navy that compared favorably with the fleets of other nations; established a system of finance that commanded the confidence of capitalists at home and abroad; and, wisely utilizing a popular delusion and clamor, he seized the opportune moment, and sent forth a Proclamation of Liberty that restored the dishonored Declaration of '76 and revived Magna Charta; and by his large, magnanimous and prudent policy, and his fearless determination to maintain the integrity of the Government, compelled even his bitterest enemies to respect his principles.

Re-elected to his more than royal position by an honorable and astonishing unanimity that was rare in past history, he dedicated himself anew to the unfinished work with the same spirit and zeal, "malice toward none, charity for all, and firmness in the right," as God had given him to see the right, while almost universal acclamation accorded him preeminent wisdom, firmness of purpose, exalted patriotism and genuine statesmanship.

But here, in this meridian of his strength, power, honor and usefulness; on this summit of earthly grandeur and glory, with the future prosperity and greatness of the Country before him, he fell,—a martyr to his honored principles and for the liberty he had loved so well. And, as he fell, he bequeathed to his

Country all the honor he had so nobly won; leaving his name written in the proudest place, of the proudest history, of the freest people that ever dwelt upon the face of the Earth.

He had lived to see our Republican institutions preserved; to know that his policy was appreciated and approved; that the wisdom, justice, moderation and success of his administration were admitted. He lived to receive and enjoy the highest honors ever paid to mortal man, because they were the spontaneous offerings of a free, enlightened, and patriotic people; to know that his name stood second to none in American History, and would be the pride and glory of the American people.

As the sunshine draws less admiration than the picture, but is recognized still as a far grander good, as the river is not so much praised as the fountain, but with its inexhaustible current is a million-fold more mighty and precious; as the stars do not interest our fancy so much as the glittering fireworks which coruscate beneath,—so other statesmen may have won greater applause than was given to Abraham Lincoln; but none have made a more lasting impression upon the times in which they lived, or will have erected to their memories a more enduring monument, and be looked upon with greater reverence by all coming ages than the Author of the Emancipation Proclamation. His venerated name will go on sounding down the corridors of time till the end of all time.

George Washington, the founder; Abraham Lincoln, the savior of the American Union; Washington the Father of his Country; Lincoln the Father of the New Birth of Freedom and Regenerated Republic; Washington, the author of the Farewell Address; Lincoln the author of the Oration at Gettysburg and the First and Second Inaugural Address; Washington, the First in War; Lincoln the First martyr President in his Country's cause; Washington the First in Peace; Lincoln the recognized Prince of Peacemakers; Washington, First in the Hearts of his Countrymen; Abraham Lincoln a present co-tenant of the highest place in the affections of their Ninety million countrymen, in forty-six states of the most powerful and thoroughly united Federal Union the World has ever known.

Washington taught the world to know the American people; Lincoln taught this people to know themselves. The former won their National Independence; the latter wrought out their manhood and self-respect and preserved the National life. Both their illustrious names have properly been enrolled side by side in the great Hall of America's Famous.

In a lighter vein, my friends, I wish to say a few words. Washington was unlike Lincoln in that he never told a story, and, unlike Lincoln, used the hatchet while Lincoln used the axe. Lincoln told one story. Washington told his father that he could not tell a lie, and that he cut the cherry~~tree~~. The sole ~~one~~ instance recorded in history in which the great "Railsplitter" violated the Ninth of the Decalogue is in his wondrous words at Gettysburg. You recall that he therein said: "The world will little note nor long remember what we say here."

This Gettysburg oration will be read, recited, and remembered when the Anglo-Saxon becomes a dead language; Webster's "Reply to Hayne" ceases to attract attention, and Stephen A. Douglas' name lost in the mist of ages.

Abraham Lincoln was an orator who did not fall below Demosthenes or Cicero. He was not an elocutionist, but an orator of the highest type. Elocution is one thing and oratory is another. Some misconceive elocution for oratory; but it is quite different. The elocutionist says what he thinks others thought; the orator expresses his own thought. The difference is between what is said

and felt. In the one case the brain and heart act conjointly; in the other the brain alone.

It is understood that there are three methods of enforcing opinion by orators, journalists, and writers generally. First come those who cite and rely largely, if not entirely, upon authority. Second are those of a higher order intellectually who outline the facts of a given case, apply wellknown and fixed principles to those facts, and by logical process cause the auditor or reader to come to the conclusion desired. Third, and *high above all intellectually*, are those writers and speakers, who, by a simple or argumentative statement of their propositions, carry conviction to the minds of others, who reason solely by the manner and style of statement.

To this latter class Mr. Lincoln indubitably belonged; and, tested by this rule, he was beyond cavil a writer as well as an orator of the very highest rank. If you doubt this latter assertion, be kind enough to peruse Mr. Lincoln's most noted public utterances, if you have not already done so, and be convinced.

The fact is we are struck with amazement upon reading them. How one with as little opportunity for education in early life, or the study of language even, and who, like he, struggled with poverty and a multitude of other embarrassments and hindrances of every nature, in youth and through middle life, could have become capacitated for such masterly utterances, causes wonder and astonishment, except upon the *suggestion of inspiration*.

Mr. Lincoln was not only an orator, debator, and logician of the highest rank, but as a diplomat he surpasses the wisest and best before or since his day. If one doubts this assertion he has only to examine for himself that highly important dispatch prepared by Mr. Seward, then Secretary of State, and sent to the United States Representative in Great Britain at the beginning of the War and note the changes in that celebrated state paper written by one of the masters in diplomacy.

Those corrections, erasures, and interlineations, made by the hand of the immortal Lincoln, not only fully demonstrate his capacity as a diplomat of the highest rank, but his remarkable knowledge of the language and precision in the use of words. It has been intimated that, but for the corrections in this famous dispatch, the result of the great American conflict might have been vastly different.

Mr. Lincoln's patience was equal to that of Job; and his firmness in the right, as God gave him to see the right, was a marked characteristic. But Mr. Lincoln's lack of firmness has been asserted; those who do so mistake obstinacy for firmness. Obstinaey is one thing, and firmness is another. To be obstinate is to be egotistic; to be firm is to be heroic. Mr. Lincoln was not obstinate; but firmness, as well as heroism, was a predominant characteristic.

On momentous occasions, when matters of grave import were involved, he displayed indomitable firmness; respecting matters of little moment, he was generally flexible, yielding, and tolerant.

It has also been said that Mr. Lincoln was a "typical American," but those who have done so have fallen into error. Mr. Lincoln was not a type. He stands alone—without antecedents, and with no successors. His precise like had not gone before, and none have followed. In the third martyr president is to be found more nearly the Typical American, but it is not proper to so characterize the sixteenth president. It would be more nearly correct to say that he, like the present Chief of the Nation, was a moral and intellectual prodigy, and in him there is to be recognized a new departure in human character.

My friends; it will interest you to note some indicia of existing popular sentiment at that time regarding the great war president, the Centennial of

whose birth we this day celebrate. It will serve you to note how, as times change, popular sentiment undergoes radical changes as history finds its way among the people, and thought is awakened after passion and prejudice have died away.

If time permitted the speaker would more fully illustrate what the Chief Executive of the Nation had to contend with during that most important crisis in the Nation's history, and demonstrate to you how the Great Liberator has grown in the minds and hearts of the people, everywhere, North, South, East, West, and the World over, regardless of party or past party affiliations; regardless of the right or the wrong of Secession and rebellion, extension of the slave trade, the abolition of slavery, or any other important issue that may have been involved in that terrible war between the States.

It is most interesting, as well as highly gratifying, to note the extent to which the brave people of the Sunny South have come to recognize the goodness and greatness of the renowned flat-boatman, the "typical American," his unparalleled service to the entire country, his ardent desire for peace, his cordial goodwill toward the people in every part of the great American Union, irrespective of party affiliations or *the errors into which they may have fallen*. In a word, his charity for all and malice toward none, as so beautifully exemplified in these sublime words:

"We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle-field and patriot grave to every heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

You will find history repeating itself. Abraham Lincoln was a real benefactor of yours, a harbinger in thought and deed of his illustrious successors in office,—McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, and President-Elect Taft.

The "New Birth of Freedom" has been brought to your shores through the agency of these great and good men and their faithful coadjutors; and you will be the recipients of their benefactions in full measure, if you do not suffer yourselves to be misguided by those who are either woefully ignorant, or seek intentionally to deceive; if you do not permit yourselves to be misinformed as to the purposes and plans of these distinguished leaders of the Country that now has your future welfare in charge, just as the brave people of the Sunny South were misguided as to the patriotic intentions of the immortal Lincoln with reference to that great section of our common country.

The gift of freedom to four million slaves was as valuable to the white people of the States as to the slaves themselves; and no more valuable to either than to the friends of liberty in every part of the known world, and no less to you than to the rest of mankind.

Under the successive leadership of the three great patriots mentioned "the Nation has taken up the task of securing orderly liberty and the reign of justice and law in these Islands from which it drove the tyranny of Spain."

These leaders are all astute statesmen, one has passed to his reward,—blessings on his memory and peace to his ashes. They were all schooled in the statesmanship of Washington and Lincoln, and drank at the same fountain of patriotism and love of liberty. When Washington fought for National Independence and advocated a more perfect union, it was not for these alone that he contended, but for the priceless blessing of orderly liberty and equal justice.

When Lincoln pleaded, agonized, and suffered martyrdom for the inseparability of the States, salvation of the National Union, and liberation of the

slaves, he became the father of a Regenerated Republic and the prophet of a Greater Republic; and both Washington and Lincoln were merely the ablest and most prominent exponents of the tendencies of their race and the embodiment of its most characteristic qualities.

And the renowned trio already mentioned, McKinley, Roosevelt, and Taft, have been as Divinely guided as Washington and Lincoln in prosecuting the grand work of civilization and extension of liberty. Whatever any or all of them have achieved, or shall achieve, *will live*, because founded upon the rock of the people's will. "*Vox populi, Vox dei.*"

But a distinction must be made between orderly or regulated and unrestrained or absolute liberty.

Orderly or civil liberty is that same kind of liberty for which the Patriot José Rizal, like the Patriot Lincoln, suffered martyrdom; whereas absolute freedom from restraint cannot exist under any form of good Government.

Orderly liberty is the negative side of absolute liberty, and denotes the necessary restraint on all, which is needed to promote the greatest possible amount of liberty for each in any given community or state.

"The administration of orderly government is not a denial of this liberty." Establishing justice is not a denial of liberty. Teaching habits of industry; boring artesian wells; building railroads and other roads; founding schools and providing teachers; freedom of speech and the Press; religious worship according to the dictates of conscience; and separation of church and State are in no wise a deprivation of orderly liberty.

And surely neither promoting the general welfare, the elective franchise, nor the creation of a legislative assembly is a denial of liberty. If so, civilization is a denial of liberty.

On the contrary, the inhabitants of the Philippine Islands are to-day enjoying substantially all the rights and liberties of the best Government in the world; they are essentially a free people, and have practically a government "of the people, for the people, and by the people."

And all now needed is, not that political independence of which so much is heard, but commercial and industrial independence, which must be wrought out mainly by the hand and brain of the people themselves.

And it is within their power at no distant time to become as happy and prosperous as any people under the sun, just as the great and good people of Dixie are today two hundred per cent more prosperous and happy than in any period of their history; and every state in the Land of Cotton is now, thank Heaven, as loyal to the flag of the Union as the grand old commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any other state of the great Regenerated American Republic.

Thanks be to the Ruler of the Universe for the birth, exemplary life, grandeur of character, exalted patriotism, and inestimable services to his country and to humanity of Abraham Lincoln; and that a knowledge of this life and character is being disseminated by the expanding force of civilization to every part of the World.



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